

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of notifying a user of the receipt of an email by a mail center, comprising transmitting a notification message in a broadcast signal, wherein the notification message comprises at least part of the text of the e-mail; and receiving a request for the notification message to be transmitted.

BS 2. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 1, wherein the notification message is sent without ~~any~~ (direct) user prompt.

3. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 1, wherein the notification message includes an identifier of a receiver/decoder to which the notification message is to be sent.

4. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 3, wherein the receiver/decoder compares the identifier with an identifier which is stored at the receiver/decoder.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 3, wherein the receiver/decoder has a smartcard number and the identifier comprises at least part of the smartcard number.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, further comprising storing information relating to e-mail accounts, ~~preferably~~ at a central location.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 6, wherein information relating to e-mail accounts is linked to identifiers of receiver/decoders, and ~~preferably~~ wherein the information relating to e-mail accounts is linked to the smartcard numbers of receiver/decoders.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 6, wherein the broadcast signal is part of a subscription service and information relating to e-mail accounts is linked to information relating to the subscription service.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein the notification message comprises an identifier of the recipient of the e-mail.

10. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 1, wherein the notification message comprises an identifier of the sender of the e-mail.

11. (Cancel)

BS 12. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 1, wherein the notification message is sent to a receiver/decoder.

13. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 12, wherein the receiver/decoder generates a signal for indicating to the user receipt of the e-mail by the mail centre.

14. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 1, further comprising storing preferences selected by the user.

15. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 1, further comprising notifying the user of a selected number of e-mails.

16. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 1, wherein the broadcast signal is a digital data stream.

17. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 16, wherein the notification message is sent as a section of the digital data stream.

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18. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 16, wherein the notification message is sent by way of an entitlement management message.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of notifying a user of the receipt of e-mail by a mail centre, which e-mail is to be transmitted to the user via a first medium, comprising transmitting a notification message, indicating the receipt of the e-mail by the mail centre, to the user via a second medium, different from the first medium, wherein at least part of the text of the e-mail is in the broadcast signal; and receiving a request for the notification message to be transmitted.

20. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 19, wherein the first medium is a switched medium and the second medium is a broadcast medium.

21. (Cancel)

22. (Currently Amended) A method of transferring email from a mail centre to a user, comprising transmitting at least part of the email in a broadcast signal; and receiving a request for the notification message to be transmitted.

23. (Currently Amended) A method of communicating with a mail centre, comprising running an email application on a receiver/decoder; and receiving at least part of the text of an email in a broadcast signal by the receiver/decoder.

24. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ for notifying a user of receipt of email by a mail center, comprising means for transmitting a notification message in a broadcast signal, wherein the notification message comprises at least part of the text of the e-mail; and means for receiving a request for the notification message to be transmitted.

25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 24, wherein the notification message includes an identifier of a receiver/decoder to which the notification message is to be sent.

26. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 24, further comprising means for storing information relating to e-mail accounts.

27. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 26, wherein information relating to email accounts is linked to identifiers of receiver/decoders, and preferably wherein the information relating to email accounts is linked to the smartcard numbers of receiver/decoders.

28. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 26, wherein the broadcast signal is part of a subscription service and information relating to e-mail accounts is linked to information relating to the subscription service.

29. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 24, wherein the notification message comprises an identifier of the recipient of the e-mail.

30. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 24, wherein the notification message comprises an identifier of the sender of the e-mail.

31. (Cancel)

32. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 24, further comprising means for storing preferences selected by the user.

33. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 24, wherein the apparatus is adapted to notify the user of a selected number of e-mails.

34. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 24, wherein the broadcast signal is a digital data stream.

35. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 34, wherein the apparatus is adapted to send the notification message as a section of the digital data stream.

36. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 34, wherein the apparatus is adapted to send the notification by way of an entitlement management message.

37. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 24,  
wherein the apparatus is adapted to send at least part of the e-mail in the broadcast signal.

38. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ for transferring an e-mail from  
a mail center to a user, comprising means for transmitting at least part of the text of the e-  
mail in a broadcast signal; and means for receiving a request for the notification message  
to be transmitted.

39. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ for notifying a user of the  
receipt of e-mail by a mail center, which e-mail is to be transmitted to the user via a first  
medium, comprising means for transmitting a notification message, indicating the receipt  
of e-mail by the mail centre, to the user via a second medium, different from the first  
medium; and means for transmitting at least part of the text of the e-mail in the broadcast  
signal.

40. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 39, wherein  
the first medium is a switched medium and the second medium is a broadcast medium.



41. (Currently Amended) A receiver/decoder for performing at least one of receiving and/or decoding a broadcast signal, comprising means for receiving, together with a broadcast signal, a notification message for notifying a user of the receipt of e-mail by a mail centre; and means for receiving at least part of the text of the e-mail in the broadcast signal.

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42. (Currently Amended) A- The receiver/decoder according to claim 41, wherein the receiver/decoder is adapted to compare an identifier in the notification message with an identifier which is stored at the receiver/decoder.

43. (Currently Amended) A- The receiver/decoder according to claim 41, wherein the receiver/decoder has a smartcard number and the identifier comprises at least part of the smartcard number.

44. (Currently Amended) A- The receiver/decoder according to claim 41, wherein the receiver/decoder generates a signal indicating the receipt of e-mail by the mail centre.

45. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The receiver/decoder according to claim 41, wherein the receiver/decoder generates a signal for displaying at least part of the notification message.

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46. (Currently Amended) A receiver/decoder for receiving and/or decoding a broadcast signal, comprising means for receiving e-mail via a first medium and means for receiving a notification message, indicating the receipt of e-mail by the mail centre, via a second medium different from the first medium; and means for receiving at least part of the text of the e-mail in the broadcast signal.

47. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The receiver/decoder according to claim 46, wherein the first medium is a switched medium and a second medium is a broadcast medium.

48. (Currently Amended) A system ~~System~~ for notifying a user of the receipt of e-mail comprising an apparatus for notifying a user of the receipt of e-mail by a mail centre and a receiver/decoder for receiving and/or decoding a broadcast signal;

the apparatus comprising means for transmitting a notification message in the broadcast signal and means for receiving a request for the notification message to be transmitted; and

the receiver/decoder comprising means for receiving, together with the broadcast  
signal, a notification message for notifying the user of the receipt of e-mail by the mail  
centre and means for receiving at least part of the text of the e-mail in the broadcast  
signal.

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